

Spark Gap

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California High School to Offer “Radio Amateurs and Disaster Operations” Class



The W6MHS ribbon cutting: (L-R) Moorpark Unified School District Superintendent Ellen Smith, teacher Guy Aronoff, Asst Superintendent Anna Merriman, student Elliot Bluffer, student Matt Allen and Moorpark HS Asst Principal Ruby Delery.

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
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NEWINGTON, CT, May 2, 2006—A California high school that’s participating in the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP—also known as “The Big Project”) will offer a year-long elective course, “Radio Amateurs and Disaster Operations” (RADIO), starting this fall. Moorpark

High School math and meteorology teacher Tom Baker, NC6B, says the course is the first of its kind anywhere in the US. The class curriculum was created in conjunction with the ARRL, the American Red Cross and various Ventura County agencies. ARRL ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, gives the new course high marks and says it has a great chance to succeed.

“This program has in place all three components that will be necessary for success: a motivated teacher, supportive school administration and strong support and involvement by the local ham community,” Spencer said. He attended an April 4 meeting at the school to discuss its “Learn and Serve Program,” and he believes the support shown at that session will greatly boost the RADIO initiative.

Students will learn about and how to seamlessly interface with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) and local government infrastructure. They’ll also learn search-and-

rescue techniques among other disaster and emergency preparedness skills. RADIO participants will even learn peer mediation skills.

The RADIO course not only will provide service-learning opportunities for students but will make them prime candidates as volunteers for service organizations and, later, as potential service professionals.

Moorpark High School, which has an enrollment of approximately 2700, established its

Amateur Radio club, W6MHS, last August, and it became an ARRL-affiliated club in October. In December, W6MHS won an ARRL ETP grant and received station equipment through the program (some 170 schools now participate in the “Big Project”).

This August, Moorpark High

School will host one of the ARRL ETP Teachers Institutes.

“We are very excited about this program,” said Baker of the RADIO course. He has offered to help other schools in the US to establish RADIO curricula. “This will be quite a challenging and enjoyable class. It will give students skills to become positively and directly involved with their community, and it gives this high school a pool of talented, trained individuals who can assist with many on-campus situations.”

Contact Baker (805-378-6305) for more information or visit the RADIO page on the school’s Department of Meteorology Web site.

New CA Class!

Ham Radio License Manual, Tech Q&A are ARRL's Next-Generation Study Guides

NEWINGTON, CT, May 4, 2006—The keys to passing the Amateur Radio Technician license examinations starting July 1 now are



available for ordering. The ARRL has produced [*The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*](#)—a brand-new publication that includes all the information a

prospective ham needs to get licensed, including the significantly revised Technician class (Element 2) question pool going into effect at mid-year. Also just out: the fourth edition of [*ARRL's Tech Q & A*](#). ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says these new publications will supplant the popular and familiar *Now You're Talking!* (5th edition) and *ARRL's Tech Q & A* (3rd edition) for those not planning to sit for the Technician examination any sooner than July 1.

"We're very excited about the new authorship of this next generation of ARRL entry-level license manuals," Inderbitzen said this week. "Both books were penned by Ward Silver, N0AX, a well-known contributing editor and columnist for *QST* and author of the popular [*Ham Radio for Dummies*](#)—published by John Wiley & Sons and available from ARRL."

Inderbitzen says a working group of ARRL staff members and volunteers contributed toward the organization and layout of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*. Designed either for self-study or for classroom use, the book sports a friendly, easy-to-read two-color print format that makes for even more creative ways to emphasize key learning concepts as well as easy-to-understand "bite-sized" sections. These include Welcome to

Amateur Radio, Radio and Electronics Fundamentals, Operating Station Equipment, Communicating with Other Hams, Licensing Regulations, Operating Regulations and Radio Safety.

The new *ARRL Tech Q & A* also includes the Technician Amateur Radio license examination (Element 2) question pool that goes into effect July 1 plus an answer key and brief, clear explanations for all questions. Those studying for their first Amateur Radio license will find it a convenient tool to review what they've learned prior to taking the test.

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Order No [9639](#)) retails for \$24.95. The new fourth-edition *ARRL Tech Q & A* (Order No [9647](#)) sells for \$15.95.

Anyone aiming to take the Technician class (Element 2) Amateur Radio examination *before* July 1 of this year should study *Now You're Talking!* (5th edition) and *ARRL's Tech Q & A* (3rd edition), which remain available.

New Texts From ARRL

This summer, the League will introduce a new online class, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Course." This class will replace the current Technician License Course (EC-010).

Students taking the new course will be able to complete all of their Technician class license training online. Along with a 100-percent risk-free guarantee, registration will include a copy of the new *ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, a one-year ARRL membership and post-graduate support. ■

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SKYWARN CLASS

The National Weather Service was at the Fairland Fire Department on Saturday, April 22, 2006 for its annual weather spotter class. There was a record turnout at the Fairland Fire Station thanks to the huge promotional work of Tom Achors, KB9RBB. More than thirty people packed the fire house for the latest information on spotting and reporting severe weather.

IS-700 NIMS Classes

Have you completed the IS-700 class yet? If so, remember to give Linda, KC9GCH a copy. She will make sure our ARES representative, Bob LaGrange and Tug Sutton, the Johnson County EMA director a copy. If you plan on volunteering for SKYWARN or other emergency communications, it is highly recommended that you complete this course on Incident Command. If you need assistance or have questions, just ask Linda or send an email to Secretary@midstatehams.org.

MARC Now Has Business Cards

KC9GCH has created a MARC business card. Please get a supply from Linda and pass out to people interested in joining or learning more about our club. The card includes club contact information (Linda's telephone number & secretary e-mail address), mailing address, web site address, repeater information and details on monthly meetings. So if someone wants to attend our meetings (remember these are open always to the public!) just hand them a card and everything is there.

Damage Assessment Training (EMA Standards)

The Mid State Amateur Radio Club will host Damage Assessment Training on the evening of June 13, 2006 at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, EOC, 1111 Franklin Road, Franklin, IN 46131. The class will go from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Talk-in for all amateurs will be on the 146.835 MHz repeater (pl 151.4). The class is open to all interested parties. For more information or to sign-up for the class, please contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, days at 317-233-0939; evenings at 317-885-7409 or via e-mail at N9SIU@yahoo.com.

This training is a basic class with the emphasis on damage assessment for the county Emergency Management Agency ARES/RACES volunteers. You will learn what to look for when doing a damage assessment and what the county director needs for the report of damages in the county. The class lasts 2 hours. There is no test at completion.

MARC Severe Weather Net Report for Friday, April 14th

Again MARC operated a severe weather net on the evening of Friday, April 14th. The net began at 9:08 PM in stand-by mode and went active upon the National Weather Service request at 10:01 PM. The net was secured with NWS permission at 11:10 PM for a total up-time of slightly more than 2 hours. The net had 19 participants including 2 mobile and 17 base stations. Ernest Clark, KB9SKI, handled net control while Brenda Haler, KC9EBL, was liaison with Central Indiana SKYWARN. Thanks to all who participated.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!



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2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

MAY 2006

19-21 Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, OH

20 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

27 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

JUNE 2006

3 Tour-de-Cure

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

13 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting; 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Red Cross Chapter House, Indianapolis, IN

13 Disaster Assessment Class; 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

17 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

24-25 Field Day - Johnson County

Location to be announced

24 June Sprint Triathlon

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.